

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 25-42 are currently pending. Claims 41 and 42 are withdrawn without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. No claims are amended in this paper.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 25, 27-30, and 32-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,552,833 to Henmi, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Henmi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,953,481 to Watanabe et al. (hereinafter, merely "Watanabe").

Claims 26 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Henmi and in view of Watanabe and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,914,712 to Sartain, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Sartain").

Claims 37-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Henmi and in view of Watanabe and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,787,259 to Haroun, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Haroun").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Applicant respectfully submit that Watanabe is not prior art.

Watanabe is filed on December 2, 1996 and is patented on September 14, 1999.

This Application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/840,368 filed on April 29, 1997, which claims priority to Japanese Application No. PO8-132717 filed on April 30, 1996. Applicant submits herewith a Certified English translation of the priority document.

Watanabe was filed on December 2, 1996, which is after the priority date of April 30, 1996 of this Application. Therefore, Watanabe is not prior art.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections based on Watanabe be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicant

By 

Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800